Sir Nicholas as of great stature and appar

A DOG HIRES A CAB.

suburban home without my companion, sor-rowful, yet hoping that he might find his way back. In about two hours after my ar-rival a hansom cab drove up to the door, and

out jumped Scoti. The cabman rang for his

THE INPLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

Will Not Suffer Grently.

In 1830 an epidemic started in China. It

severer epidemie started in Russia in De-

ten years ago an epidemic prevailed in the United States. North America, however,

does not seem to be very (avorable to the development of epidemic influenza in its worst

forms, and it is not likely that we shall have

The disease is not dangerous, except some-

times to children or the aged. It is believed

to be due to some micro-organism that floats in the air and infects the human system, but is generally killed in so doing, for the dis-ease is very slightly, if at all, contagious.

HUNTING A LOST GOLD MINE.

A Party of Adventurers Looking for the Los

Adams Placer Beds.

At the Backed Canvas Club

Old man Adams, of the "Lost Adams"

Two nutmegs.
Juice of choice lemons.
One quart brandy.
One quart brandy.
One quart cider.
Mix dry paris with salt, that is, meat, suct said spices. Then put in apples, then fruit, then liquors, then sugar. Make two, and if possible, six weeks before using.

Mrs. Justice Field was a Maryland girl, and she gives a recipe that speaks of the old days of hospitality. It is eggnogg, or the "greeting cup," and in Maryland and Virginia houses is sent around Christmas morn-

greeting cup, and in Maryiand and virginia houses is sent around Christmas morning to every room before breakfast. She

MARYLAND EGGNOGG.

One gallon of milk; one dozen eggs. Divide the yolks from the whites, and beat them. Add 15 tablesnoonfuls of sugar, one grated nutmeg. one pint of brandy, one pint of Jamaica rum. Beat the yolks and sugar until light, add the brandy and rum, stirring constantly. Last of all put in one gallon of milk or cream and cover with the beaten white of the eggs.

Mrs. Field also gives the method of preparing g turkey for a Christmas feast. The turkey should be cooped up and fed well some time before Christmas. Three days before it is slaughtered it should have an English walnut forced down the throat three times a day and a glass of sherry wine once a day. The meat will be deliciously tender and have a nutty flavor.

SUE VIEGINIA FIELD,

In connection with this I give you the recipe for Regent's punch, which Mrs. Senator Kenna uses at her receptions. It is taken by her from Marion Harland's cookbook, but Mrs. Kenna uses it, and she writes that it is delicious.

One pound loaf sugar or rock candy. One large cup strong black tea (made). Three wineglasses of brandy. Three wineglasses of rum. One bottle imported champagne. Two cranges, juice only. Three lemons.

One large lump of ice. ANNIE B, KENNA. "Tell your readers," said a man, a gentle-man of the old school and skilled in beverages as in cookery, "Tell your readers that better punch was never brewed." The wife of Congressman Burrows gives us a recipe for plum budding, and Mrs. Senator Hawley tells how to make it. First the

Ten eggs, 8 loaves of stale bread grated, 13, nounds of beef, chopped fine, I cup sugar, I glass of brandy, I nuimeg, I pound of raisins, I pound of curranta, 3, nound of citron, all

chopped.

Beat the eggs, then add the sugar, grated nutmer and brandy. Beat all till very light. Mix the grated bread with the suet and fruit, and put in the eggs, etc. Boil three to four hours.

Boil three to four hours.

BIRS. J. C. BURBOWS. THE ENGLISH OF IT.

Now the English of it in a charming note from Mrs. Hawley. She writes:

from Mrs. Hawley. She writes:

I had a plum pudding made last Christmas and followed my mother's recipe exactly, but someway it did not taste like the English plum pudding. This, I think, was the reason. In England the last Sunday in Trinity is "Stir-up Sunday," and every one in the family from the grandmother to the 2-year-old stirs the pudding. Phipps has a picture showing this custom, where a little baby is held up by its grandmether who holds the ladle in its hand and guides it while it stirs. Each one as he stirs puts in a new shilling or sixpence for the cook,

mether who holds the ladle in its hand and guides it while it stirs. Each one as he stirs puts in a new shilling or sixpence for the cook, and the mistrees of the house drops in a ring and a thimble. The one who gets the ring in her piece Christmas Day will be married within a year, but the one to whom the thimble falls will be a spinster all her life. The pudding is bolled the Monday after "Stir-up Sunday," but it is not touched until Christmas Day. Then comes the poetical part of it. The butler brings the pudding in on a great platter and it is surrounded by delicate green flames, made by burning the brandy which has been poured over it. Now comes the test of the server. If there are a score at the table, each one must receive a piece that is still surrounded by flames. It has to be speedy work, and when accomplished is a beautiful sight to see at every plate a spiral flame, and in the platter flames surrounding the bit of holly with which it is denorated. These things are the making of English plum pudding. Entrin Hawley.

Here is a delicate morsel from Maine. It is Mrs. Senator Frye's recipe for spiced gingerbread:

Ingeroreac.
Three eggs.
One cup of molasses.
One cup of sour milk.
One cup of chopped raisins.
One cup of chopped raisins. gingerbread:

Two cups of flour,
Spice to taste.

CAROLINE F. FRYE. Mrs. Roger Q. Mills' barbaqued mutton has gaued more votes for Corsican's states-man than his free trade speeches. It is always has gained more votes for Corsican's states-man than his free trade speeches. It is always prepared by Mrs. Mills' own hands and the Texan who eats it never swerves from his allegiance. Mrs. Mills has written it out with her own hand. It is as follows:

Take a nice tender fore quarter, or only the ribs of lamb or mutton. Gut it across three or four times to break the bones so as to carre ensily. Put it in a flat stove pan, or better on a breller in front of the fire. Let it boil slowly. Take a pint of vinegar, add to it two table-spoonsful of red pepper (nods cut up fine, much the best), teaspoonful black pepper, sait to taste and two tablespoonsful of butter. Keep this hot. Make a sponge of a piece of soft cloth and all the time the meat is cooking mop it with the dressing. When ready, pour on the rest of the dressing and serve bot. and at the dressing. When ready, pour with the dressing and serve bot.

Mrs. R. Q. Mills.

SENATOR CULIOM'S CHRISTMAS DINNER Nearly all Senators will . at their Christmas dinners at the capital, and to give an idea of their likes, I send you a sample menu. It is that of the Christmas dinner of Mrs. Senator Cullom has decided upon;

Raw oysters. Clear soup. Fish and encumbers. Sweetbreads and peas, Roast turkey. Mashed potatoes. Baked sweet potatoes, corn, celery Olives, cranberry jelly. Timbale de macaroni.

Mrs. Senator Cullom is an expert in candy making, as well as a maker of won-derful pies. Her chocolate creams always form a part of her Christmas cooking, ar they will probably be made by thousands of your readers after her recipe is read. She has written it out carefully and warrants it good. It is as follows:

Grate a package of sweetened chocolate.
Add two tablespoonfuls of water and set the bowl in a tm of water on the stove to melt.
While melting roll some of the cream into balls, dip these one at a time in the chocolate, lifting out with a fork. Put on a buttered dish to harden. Use any kind of flavoring desired in cream.

JULIA CULLOM. A dish from Kentucky is recommended to

me by Mrs. Senator Blackburn. It is

Swedish Timballs and I give the recipe as Mrs. Blackburn has written it out for me: One pint of flour, one half pint of sweet milk three eggs, two tablespoonsful of salad oil, scant Stir the flour and milk to a perfectly smooth

Stir the flour and milk to a perfectly smooth batter, add oil and sait. Then the eggs whipped very light. If too thick add more milk until right consistency.

Chicken Filling for Patties—One pint cocked chicken, out in small bits, four tablespoonfuls of chopped mushrooms, salt and pepper, put one half of the cream on to boil, mix the other, half with the flour, stir into the boiling cream, when this has boiled up once add chicken, mushrooms and seasoning.

as and seasoning.
THERESE G. BLACKBURN. FI cannot refrain from adding Jessie Miller's recipe for Christmas candy. Jessie is the 14-year-old daughter of the Attorney General and is especially proud of the candy because the President has eaten it and the boys at school where her brother is say it is the best they have tasted. No one

of it is "in her head." This is the way she tells it:

A cup of brown sugar, a cup of black molasses and a big plece of butter.

Dou't use confectioner's sugar or it won't be sticky enough and will taste just like the kind you buy. Try it by blowing through a curled broom splint and by tasting.

It is two kinds of candy. If you pull it, it's taffy. If you don't, it's butter scotch.

MISS GRUNDY, JR.

will be able to make it, as Miss Jessie says

A Valid Excuse.

Journal of Education.] The following is an exact copy of a note of excuse recently received by a teacher in

Miss T.—Piease excuse Louis for being ab-stand because he whence with me to the ball a Monday night and I cep him home from school that he could rest himself. MRS. A---

Perpetual Perplexities.

Somerville Journal. There are two things in this world about which the average woman seems to be eternally in doubt. One is whether her hat is on straight, and other other is just how much her husband loves her.

Into it depended upon this access of matter about the earth's equator. This change is known among astronomers, as the precession of the equinoxes.

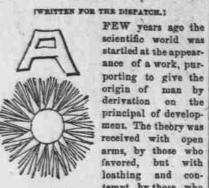
Now to understand this precession, we have to conceive a point in the earth's orbit where the earth was, when the equinoxes be-

THE EARTH CHANGES. Prof. Prvor Explains the Reasons of Agassiz for

REJECTING DARWIN'S THEORY. Unlimited Time a Necessary Factor in Evolution.

THE PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)



loathing and conas ready to express a decided opinion of

Cury

Story of changes commence to move. But what we are most interested in, are the effects upon the earth, as the result of this movement.

It will be remembered that the annual court, and the remembered that the annual court, and the remembered that the annual court, and the remembered that the annual court, and their periodical effect in destroying all life on the globe every 25,000 years, a period yearty too short to satisfy the claims of the development theory, were the weighty reasons assigned by a recent author for the rejection of the development theory by Prof. Agassiz.

PROF. J. M. PRYOR.

STORY OF A WELSH GIANT.

He Threw a Man and His B.

High and their periodical effect in destroying all life on the globe every 25,000 years, a period yearty too short to satisfy the claims of the development theory, were the weighty reasons assigned by a recent author for the rejection of the development theory by Prof. Agassiz.

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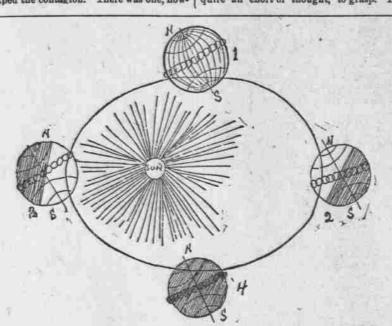
He Threw a Man and His B.

Sir No.

motion of the earth, or its motion around the sun, takes place in an oblong or elliptical orbit, and that there are two points in the orbit unequally distant from the sun, take one, the perihelion, being about 3,000,000 miles nearer the sun than the other, the in Glamorganshire. The story runs, that one summer evening as Sir Nicholas was

Now, if this difference in the distance of Now, it has difference in the distance of these two points was double what it is the globe would be unsuited to life such as now exists upon it, because the climatic condi-tions resulting therefrom would be so intensified in their extremes as to utterly de-stroy all forms of organic life. We know by experience that if the summers were a few degrees hotter and the winters a few degrees colder how animal life would suffer and existence be jeopardized thereby, and such extremes would follow any increase in the eccentricity of

THE EARTH'S ORBIT. Now at the end of 12,000 years, precession rejected it. There seemed to be no neutral ground. Scarcely any could be found, who had not made any their minds and were just fact intelligible to those unacquainted with the science of astronomy, I shall endeavor their views, whether for or against the to be as explicit as the circumstances of the theory. Scientific men west over to case will allow. It is conceded, that there case will allow. It is conceded, that Mr. Darwin's views bodily. But few escaped the contagion. There was one, how-



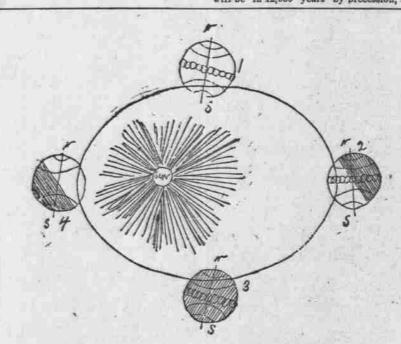
3. Solatice, December 22; winter in perihelic 4. Vernal equinox, March 22. This diagram shows the present condition of the earth and the position of the earth's axis to produce winter in perihelion and summer in aphelion.

the pressure which was brought to bear by the friends of the development theory upon Mr. Agassis to induce him to acknowledge and accept the doctrine of the descent of man by derivation; but steadily to his last breath he protested. And but few outside the special friends of the great scientist know the weighty reasons which he had for rejecting a doctrine that had gained such ready credence with so large and respects.

were insuperable. A QUESTION OF TIME. The main factor in the Darwinian theory, and that upon which it is alone defensible, is time. With time liberally allowed, there is no step, say its followers, from the lowest monad to the highest type of being, which may not be accounted for. Such changes as known to all acquainted with geography that the earth revolves about the sun, with the north pole pointing in the direction of the north star, that is, that the axis of the earth leans over from the perpendicular 2314 degrees and maintains this position in all parts of the orbit.

This statement requires some limitation Astronomers and geographers uniformly teach, that the pole points toward the pole star, and that the axis of the earth, is parallel to itself, in all parts of the orbit. This is not strictly true since precession causes the axis to be constantly deviating from this parallelism. During the 25,800 years, the north pole sweeps round through years, the north pole sweeps round through 47 degrees of space, by a motion similar to that of the hands of a clock and not per saltum. Hence, while such statement is true enough temporally, a is not true for

secular periods. From this statement, it will readily be seen that for one-half the year the north pole points toward the sun, and for the other half points away from it. During our summer in the Northern Hemisphere the pole points in the direction of the sun, and away from it in the winter. But we are now having our winters while near perihelion, or nearest point to the sun, and ou the theory contemplates must have required, not 6,000 years nor 10,000 years, but almost summers while away at the other end of the unlimited duration to produce. From the earth's orbit. Now reverse these conditions, very nature of animal progression the prowill be in 12,000 years by precession, and



 Vernal equinox, March 22.
 Solstice, December 21; winter in aphelion.
 Solstice, June 21; summer in perihelion. Condition of the earth 12,800 years hence, showing the position of the earth's axis t

cess of development must be slow. To de-rive the highest from the lowest type of evolution, supposing that to be the order of nature, including all the changes and delays to perfect each type in its order, before an advance could be made to the next higher, would require millions of years to complete, But, as already said, without this concession as to time the theory must fail; and if the time be granted, then the theory is in conflict with a cardinal principle of terrestrial physics. And now for

produce summer in perihelion and winter in aphelion.

Our globe, say geologists, started on its mission as a mass of nebulæ, and has steadily advanced from that gaseous condition to one of solid matter, by the operation of the physical forces, solely; that in pass-ing from the one state to the other, it became molten and remained in that condition until all the heat was radiated off inte space, and a shell formed on the outside, which has gradually increased, as some suppose, to about 60 miles; that while the earth was cooling off, and this shell forming, it shrunk some 200 miles, producing all the variety and inequality in the configuration of its surface; that in the elevation of the plateaus and mountain systems of the earth, a surplus of matter was projected into the equatorial regions, which produces changes of a secular character in the annual motion

PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES

Disturbances in the equinoxes first called the attention of astronomers to this fact; but not until the time of Newton was the dis-turbing cause unearthed. Sir Isaac New-ton showed that there was an annual ad-

In the year A. D. 1200 our winters began in perihelion. Then, of course, they were of the mildest type. Since that time, however, precession has carried the earth forward, so that the winter now begins at a point 15,000,000 miles farther forward in the direction of the aphelion, and, of course, as we are approaching the aphelion, every winter must intensify, as the result, in a very small degree, but will not be appreciable to our sensations until after the lapse of ages. In 6,400 years the seasons will be advanced three months. Winter will begin September 21; spring, December 22; summer, March 21; autumn, June 21. At the end of 12,800 years the seasons will be re-versed. The summer will be in December and winter in June. Autumn will be in March and spring in September. The north pole of the earth will point toward the sun in perihelion and from the sun in aphelion. The summers will occur while the earth is at the perihelion, or near-est point to the sun, and will be many degrees hotter than now, while the winters will occur at the aphelion, or farthest point from the sun, and will be so intense that a solid ice-cap from the North in the form of vast glaciers. from the North in the form of vast glaciers, thousands of feet thick, will creep down perhaps as far as the southern boundaries of Pennsylvania, and in Europe and Asia, to the north boundary of France and China, destroying all life in its advance. This, I repeat, is no fancy sketch. Geology points out indelible evidences of those periods which have taken place in times past, engagen upon the solid rocks of the global. rancement of the equinoxes equal to 50.1 graven upon the solid rocks of the globe, seconds of a degree, in the earth's orbit; and that it depended upon this excess of matter periods. It was during the last of those

No less than a dozen large parties have at various times been out in search of these gold

fields, but without result.

YULE-TIDE CUSTOMS

Curious Superstitions Connected With The Savior's Birthday.

SEEKING OMENS OF GOOD OR ILL. How Single Maidens Determine Their Matri-

monial Pate.

walking in the Deer Park at Cefn Mably (WHITTEN FOR THE DISPATCE.) with some guests, an athletic man leading During the Christmas holidays, includan ass, upon which was his wallet, approached, and, respectfully saluting the company, said be humbly supposed that the huge gentleman he had the honor of ading the period from Christmas to January 6 (twelfth day), more than at any other time of the year, the civilized world is dehuge gentleman he had the honor of addressing was the strong Sir Nicholas Kemeys. The stranger, being answered in the affirmative, declared himself a noted Cornish wrestler who had never been thrown, and that having heard from a Welshman, whom he had met at Bristol, of the great bodily strength of Sir Nicholas, had made this journey to see His Honor, adding that, if it were not asking too great a favor, he trusted Sir Nicholas would condescend to 'try a fall' with him. The baronet, smiling, assented, but advised the Corvoted to pleasure and enjoyment. Many of the old customs so dear to our forefathers are disappearing, the yule log is replaced by natural gas, the Christmas carol gives way to the oratorio, and the time-honored custom of bestowing presents is often limited to gifts to the children and servants. Superstitious observances during this period, however, hold their sway still over the minds of many. There is no net, smiling, assented, but advised the Cornishman first to go to the buttery and get time more propitious for determining, by some hocus-pocus, the sucrefreshment.
The Cornishman declined with many cess of enterprises during the coming year, the welfare of the observer in life, or for thanks, saying he was quite fresh; so they fell to wrestling, and in a moment the Cornisbman was thrown upon his back. The baronet, assisting him to rise, asked him if he was now satisfied of his strength. The reply was, 'Not unless you throw me over the park wall!' The tale continues to prognosticating the weather, the crops, etc. Ceremonies for this purpose are observed by the superstitious all over Europe and America, and some of them are interesting and curious. The wishbone of the Christmas fowl is broken with greater confidence say that this request was readily complied with, when the unsatisfied wrestler en-treated that Sir Nicholas would throw his than that of any less distinguished bird. Country girls still put it over the door, be-lieving that the first man who enters, or one ass after him over the wall, which was accordingly done!

A place is still shown in the sucient park
wall as the scene of the exploit. A fine
picture now at Cefn Mably, in the possesof similar name, will be the future lord of their household. In Germany, the first piece of yarn spun by the spinster on that day, stretched above the door replaces the sion of Colonel Kemeys-Tynte, represents

Girls have many ways of divining their Girls have many ways of divining their fate in marriage upon this day, or during the 12 following ones. In some instances, these ceremonies for this purpose are very peculiar. In one part of Germany young maideus go after dark on Christmas Eve to the sheepfold and clutch blindly among the ent gigantic strength. He was subsequently killed at Chepstow Castle, in defending it against the troops of Cromwell, having slain many of the enemy with his own hand in the sortic in which he fell. flock. If they are so lucky as to grasp a ram's fleece they think they will have a husband the coming year. In another part they sit up from 11 to 12 the same night and The Clover Ruse of a Pet to Get Carried Someone, writing to an English paper, tells this story of a clever dog: "You know how much I rush about in hansom cabe," said the narrator, "and Scoti, my collie dog, always goes with me. We travel many miles in a week together in this way, but on one occasion I was walking and missed him. Search was in vain. The crowd was great; traffic drowned the sound

they sit up from 11 to 12 the same night and listen to the boiling water in the "coppers." If it makes a rumbling noise the future spouse will be a blacksmith, and other sounds guide the knowing as to the calling of the expected husband. If the crack of a whip is heard, he will be a wagoner; if a pipe, a shepherd. Others rush out of doors and call on the recreant swain, while many go to the cross-roads and call out the names of several, confident that the proper one will respond. Danish girls do not take so much trouble, for they only find it necessary to go to a well at 12 o'clock and peer into it with a light in hand. If a man's shadow appears at the bottom, the lucky of my whistle, and, after waiting a while and looking elsewhere, I returned to my shadow appears at the bottom, the lucky maiden will be a wife before the year is out.
In Saxony unmarried women assemble on
Christmas eve and pour melted lead into
water. This will, it is claimed, assume the shape of the tools used by the future spouse.

out jumped Scoti. The cabman rang for his fare, and, thinking he had somehow captured the runaway, I inquired how and where he found him.

"Oh, sir," said the cabby, "I didn't hail him at all; he hailed me. I was standing close by St. James' Church, a looking out for a fare, when in jumps the dog. 'Like his impudence,' says I. So I shouts through the window, but he wouldn't stir. So I gets down and tries to pull him out, and shows UNPLEASANTLY PROPHETIC. Some think that they have only to grope backward out of the open door, when they will grasp in the hand a bunch of hair like that of the unlucky man destined to be bald down and tries to pull him out, and shows him my whip, but he sits still and barks, as if the habit is continued after marriage. Others knock at the door of the henhouse at him my whip, but he sits still and barks, as much as to say, 'Go on, old man!' As I seizes him by the collar I read his name and address. 'All right, my fine gentleman,' says I, 'I'll drive you where you're wanted, I dare say." So I shuts the door, and my gentleman settles himself with his head just a looking out, and I drives on till I stops at this here gate, when out jumps my massanger anlearing the door and 12 o'clock. If the rooster cackles she will surely get a husband; if the hea, she will re-main single that year at any rate. She may divine whether he will be a well-made man divine whether he will be a well-made man by going to the wood pile the same night and drawing out at random a stick of wood. It it is crooked she will marry a cripple; if straight, a "proper man." In other German countries, the methods of divination used at Halloween in our own land are per-formed at Christmas. Two empty nut shells having in each a tiny wax taper to repre-sent the maid and her sweetheart are set my passenger, a-clearing the door, and walks in as calm as though he'd been a reg'lar fare." affoat in a tub of water. If they go out or A Medical Journal Thinks This Country sink together the owner is good, but that lover has no chance if one is extinguished

The Medical Record, in speaking about or sinks before the other. Bread is also used. Three farthings worth of white bread is divided into three parts, the epidemic influenza, says that this disease travels rapidly, and has been known to one cut off in each of three streets, and in make all Europe sneeze within six weeks. the last street the sweetheart will appear. It used to be thought that this disease moved Onions are made use of in a test which in cycles of 100 years. Although such an idea has long been abandoned, it is a curious fact that the influenza prevailed in America 100 years ago, and Dr. John War-ren, in a letter to Dr. Lettsom, says that "our beloved President is now recovering from a severe and dangerous attack." named after a sweetheart. They are allowed to lie there until the twelfth day, and then examined to see if they have sprouted. If one has germinated, the swain for whom it was named will be the future husband, and reached Russia in January, 1831, and by the wedding will take place that year. Next to this important affair of marriage, May it had spread to Western Europe, but it only reached this country in January, 1832, and then prevailed but slightly. A German maids of all work are concerned in or not. To ascertain this, it is only necescember, 1836, and rapidly spread over Europe, but America was not affected. About

knowing whether they will keep their place sary to turn the back to the open door on Christmas Eve, and fling the shoe toward it over the head. If the toe points is from the door, the place will be open for the servant during the year, but a short stay awaits her whose shoe points out. More vital questions than these are also asked at this period of the year. On Christmas Eve, if you leave a little heap of salt on the table, you will be able to divine whether you will live the year out or not. If the salt evaporates before morning it is a bad sign, but if it is still there, you will flourish the coming

In Denmark, it is said that if you grasp a handful of mould from the ruins and find anything living in it you will not die that

An old fourteenth century author says the length of life was then foretold by going on Christmas Day to the woodpile and gold diggings, with a party of adventurers drawing out a stick of wood. The longer it from California, who have a physician with them to look after the old man's was the longer you would live. OMENS IN FIRE AND WATER,

health, arrived at Navajo Springs, on the Atlantic and Pacific road, a few days ago, and after a night's rest left for a hunt for the diggings. Mr. Adams is many countries. In Germany, if you let now under the impression that the lost the lights go out, some one in the house will mines are about 120 miles south of Gallup, die that year. It was a so said that if a mines are about 120 miles south of Gallup, and the Californians are accompanying him with a view of ascertaining the truthfulness token of the same import. Not only of his story. He claims to have encountered near the Arizona-New Mexico line placer beds of fabulous worth 20 years ago, but was prevented from working them because of the hostile Apaches that have operated through that region until five years ago.

No lear them a decreasing the watching size of the fire carefully preserved in France, but there are also certain ways only of building it. A huge bush called "Christmas branch" is placed in the fireplace, and sticks of wood are put in of great length, and allowed to burn at one of great length, and end. In Germany, a piece of the yule log is preserved until the next year, when it is used in kindling the fire afresh. It glowing embers are found on the hearth on Christmas morning, you will want for noth-ing that year. "Some," says an old author, "take a vessel full of water, and dip it out with a small spoon into another vessel. They do this several times, and if they find

more water than at first, they recken it an omen of good during the coming year; but if less, fortunes will decrease."

A curious Danish belief is that by peeping in the church windows on Christmas Eve, you may tell if any of the audience will die that year, by noting if any of their shadows appear headless. So in Germany, when the lights are brought in on that evening, note if anyone's shadow is without a head; he is certain to die that year. If it has half a head, the owner will live until the second year. Many prognostications are made in En-gland and also in this country, concerning the coming year, its prosperity, weather, &c., depending upon the day on which Christmas falls. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Saturday are usually reckoned ill-

omened days, while it is lucky to have Christmas fall on Wednesday, Thursday or Priday.

"If Christmas day on Friday be.
The first of winter hard shall be;
With frost, and snow, and with great flood.
Hut the end thereof it shall be good.
Again, the summer shall be good also."
A curious German superstition is that if anyone succeeds in stealing on that day without detection he will be able to steal with impunity all that year, and that hay stolen then and fed to the cattle will make them thrive.

There are certain things to be avoided on that day and certain other ones to be performed. In Germany it is said if you will go to the cross-roads on Christmas night you will hear what is going to occur during the Obtaining Funds From the Sale of

Your best nattle will die if you eat meat Your best rattle will die if you eat meat at this time, according to German peasants. If, however, you will eat a raw egg on Christmas, you will grow strong and hearty. You must not thresh your cora during the holidays, or it will spoil. Swedes will not go fishing on Christmas, but set their nets for luck on Christmas night. Fruit should not be picked then, or it will spoil, and it is said in Germany that if you carry a distaff in the orchard during the 12 days, the trees will not bear fruit. He that walks in the winter corn on Christmas Eve will hear all that happens in the village that year. This appears to be a propitious evening for the THE LUCK OF A CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY appears to be a propitious evening for the gossips. A very curious way of making the grass grow is prescribed in Germany. You have only to thresh the lawn or vard with a flail, barefooted and in your shirt. Some say that you must put a stone at every tree,

then, and it will bear better.

There are many superstitions connected with animals and Christmas. An old four-teenth century document says that you must take your horse into the river on Christmas morning, and make him walk against the ourcest. Then you must these sections are consequent. current. Then you must throw an apple into the stream above, and if it hits him, he will be strong the coming year.

FARMYARD SUPERSTITIONS. To Germany it is said that as often as the cock crows on Christmas Eve, so many quarters will corn be worth. The cock is closely connected with Christmas, Shakespeare savs: (Hamlet.)

"Some say, that ever 'gainst that season come Wherein our Savior's birth is celebrated, The bird of dawn singeth all night long. And then, they say, so spirit dare stir abroad. Spirits were thought unusually active at this time. Another popular superstition, current throughout Europe, was that the cattle would kneel in their stalls at midnight on Christmas Eve, or that they would rise and bow. In Germany it is said that you must not watch them, or you would be struck blind or marked for death. This instreet of the or marked for death. Inis in-sured sgainst any denial of the assertion made concerning the conduct of the inmates of the stalls. In France, not only cattle, but asses also, speak and complain or praise

their treatment. This lasts from midnight to dawn, but ends sooner if their keeper is guilty of mortal sin.

This superstition is still prevalent in parts of Pennsylvania among the German de-scendants, and also in the North Carolina mountains, where, however, it is not on Christmas Eve, but on the eve of the old

pasture on Christmas Day, or they will fight and wound each other.

A singular notion prevails in one German province that if master or servant enters the stable on Christmas morning with his boots newly blackened the cattle will not thrive thereafter. It is unlucky in England to bring shoes or leather articles into the house at this time.

at this time.

If the dog howls on Christmas Eve it will will go mad during the coming year.

Popular proverbs and sayings show the reliance placed upon the prognostications furnished by Christmas weather. These are prevalent everywhere and are believed by many here. These notions are somewhat conflicting, so that a choice may be made to suit the circumstances. A German adage is "Bright Christmas, dark barns; dark Christmas, light barns," and another saying is "The shepherd would rather see his wife enter the stable on Christmas Day than the

Christmas wet gives empty granary and barrel.

If windy on Christmas Day trees will bring forth much fruit. Wet and soft weather on this day is gen-

erally unpropitious, as witness the well-known sayings: A green Christmas, a full graveyard. Green Christmas makes a white Easter, A warm Christmas, a cold Easter. Other sayings not so well known illustrate

this point further:

Christmas on the balcony
Easter near the firebrands.
At Christmas the gnats,
At Easter the feebergs. So far as the sun shines on Christmas Day, So far will the snow blow in May. A WHITE CHRISTMAS.

The contrary is true of a cold day, and snow s particularly welcome on Christmas Day. A white Christmas, a lean graveyard. Christmas in snow, Easter in mud. "If it snows on Christmas night, we ex-

pect a good hop crop next year," says the English farmer. If at Christmas ice hangs on the willow clover may be cut at Easter. It is said in Kansas that if there is thun der during Christmas week there will be much snow during the winter.

A light Christmas, a heavy sheaf. If the sun shines through the apple tree on Christmas Day, say our farmers, there will be an abundant crop the following year. There are numerous predictions concern-ing the luck of those born on Christmas Day; it depends somewhat on the day of the week. An old belief was that those born on this day when it fell on Sunday would live to be great lords; on Monday, would be strong and keen; on Tuesday strong and covetous; on Wednesday, wise gay, doughty and crafty; on Thursday, wise

of speech and reasonable; on Friday, long lived; on Saturday, Christmas children wil live but half a year. In one part of England those born on Christmas are able to see spirits. In Germany, it is restricted to those born during the Christmas sermon. Deaths are ominous in one part of En

gland when occurring on Christ's natal day, and it is thought that many will happen during the year in the parish. Some curious ideas have prevailed con-cerning clothing made from thread or yarn spun at this time. In Germany it is said that no vermin will annoy you if you wear clothing any part of which is made from thread spun on Christmas Eve. In En-gland, notwithstanding the assertion that such clothing would never be moth eaten, no one would wear it, for he was likely to be eaten up by wolves. Yarn spun at this time was reputed in Germany as very efficacious in reducing sprains or similar

injuries.

The "shirt of safety" is to be spun by a pure and chaste maiden on Christmas Day, long enough to cover haif the wearer's body from the neck down. Two heads are to be sewed on the breasts. It will protect against lead or steel as well as mailed armor, and there is beside luck in wearing it. These are but a few of the many curious

flotions prevalent concerning Christmas, but they are typical, and serve to illustrate the value placed upon any task commenced or performed at this time and the belief in the predictions formulated at this period of the F. S. BASSETT.

A Proposed Change of Base.



Non-Intoxicating Drinks.

BELLES POSING AS BAR MAIDS.

The Drawing Power of Mrs. Astor's Wealth' Of Diamonds.

A LITTLE EPISODE IN A STREET CAR

ICORNESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH. NEW YORK, December 21. HRISTMAS puts

sive enterprise of a rich congregation to the smallest venture by juvenile philanthropists-without finding something to laugh at. When the modish belle turns herself into a worker for the poor she tries hard to be captivating, and in most cases she succeeds. This winter she is striving hard to impart positive novelty to her efforts, and many are her new inventions in palmistry which depends for success upon her own soft hands rather than those of her patrons, in wares the attractions

devices for diverting money from the purses of the rich to the uses of the poor. The big parlors of one Fifth avenue dwell-The big pariors of one Filth avenue dwelling are given up for the whole week to a fair under the auspices of several matrons high in society, and some of their daughters are agreeably exploited in the worthy work. One girl has achieved distinction by doing duty as a barmaid of the typical London sort. She is

of which lie rather in the seller than in the

sold article, and in variations of the familiar

In Denmark it is said that they not thirst if anything that goes round is set going from Christmas to New Year's. French herdsmen say that cattle must not be sent to pasture on Christmas Day, or they will ight and wound each other.

A singular notion prevails in the cattle will province that if such as I am told is used in barrooms; but it is surely handsome enough, with its polished mahogany and its plated trimmings, to be considered ornamental anywhere. It has three levers with pretty handles, and, ordinarily, I believe, the action of each serves to start a particular stream of ale, old, new or middling. But at the fair the apparatus yields nothing alcoholic, the three beverages being buttermilk, lemonade and mineral water. These fluids flow concurrently with the sparkling small talk of the amateur barmaid, and I am sure that no genuine female servitor am sure that no genuine female servitor behind a bar ever induced half the amount

of custom that this dear little philanthropist does with her innocuous drinks. "What shall it be?" she inquired of a tellow who was occupying too much of her

time at too little cost.
"Well, I will take a glass of the mineral water," and as he quaffed the saline draught he eyed the barmaid regulably.
"How do you find it?" she saked as he set down the emply glass.

"Quite intoxicating," he replied with a meaning that was meant to mash.

He still posed in front of the pump, but it was not long before she decided that it was time for him to spend another dime. "I will test the butter milk," he said, responding to her hint.

A PROHIBITION POUSSE CAFE. The milk with its cream gone was less ac-

"A glass of lemonade this time, if you please," he said.
The girl rounded her eyes at him for an instant before working the third pump handle, but it was not for her to hinder the influx of charity money by deterring him in his expenditure. So he drank the lemonade.

"How do you like that?" she inquired.
"Well, the three drinks must constitute a curious pousse cate," he replied, "with the mineral water at the bottom, the buttermilk next above and the lemonade to top with." "But don't you think that you've made a mistake in the construction? When they fill a glass with French corduals to make a pausse cafe, don't they have to very carefully grade them as to specific gravity—pouring the heaviest in first, and then the lighter and lighter ones until the thinnest stratum is at the top of the glass? Now, it seems to me that you should have drank the buttermilk first, then the lemonade and then in your motions you will be sure to mix that pousse cafe."

"Well, I will come around in an hour and let you know," he remarked, as he re-luctantly gave place to other customers. But before the hour was up three bever-

ages had amalgamated to his disc and he had gone home in a cab, hugging his stomach and holding his chin and knees close together.

MRS. ASTOR'S DIAMONDS. It is probable that Mrs. William Astor, the leader of New York society, has more diamonds than any other lady in America, and, as the best taste ordains that an endless array of jewels shall be worn at the opera, she adorns herself without stint, and fairly blazes a defiance at the electric globes around the roof of the Opera House. It is a fact that women have been known to attend the German opera for the sole purpose of seeing Mrs. Astor in all the glory of her decora-tions, and there is no doubt that she is as great a drawing card for certain society ladies as Lehmann, the handsome soprano singer is. As Mrs. Astor wears a different arrangement of jewels on each opera night, she provides an inspiriting variety of

A'huge Vof diamonds running from the bus down over the front of her corsage, so that the apex ended at the point of the dress waist, was an ornament that was greatly appreciated one night last week. With this was a firmament of diamond stars that en-circled the top of the corsage and ran over the shoulders on the narrow straps. The os-trich tip of varied stones worn in the hair was also warmly admired by Mrs. Astor's friends, as well as by the jewelers that were present: The fact is the lady was laden with fully a hundred thousand dollars' worth of precious stones.

AN IMITATION GERMAN is worth a description. Of all the musical experts that throog New York at present D'Albert, the newly imported pianist, is far the most eccentric in appearance, and the women are wild over him. A more intensely German figure was never seen. He looks like a comic picture from the Fliegende Blatter. And the remarkable point in this is he is not German but Scotch. Men who desire to be mistaken for Englishmen are plentiful, and occasionally the spurious Frenchman is met with in New York society. But the German counterfeit is a

D'Albert is a phenomenon in his mimetic as well as his musical ability. There is no full blooded Wagnerian on our shores at this mament that begins to exhibit the prothis moment that begins to exhibit the proverbial German characteristics of appearance and manner that are prominent in this young artist. His hair is long and straight, and is cut off square around the back of the neck. His alim and diminutive body is laced tightly in a long brown frockeoat that buttons high on the throat, and has akirts that flare out like those worn by the funny men in the variety shows. His trousers are like a saussage skin, and his tmy shoes are supplied with high heels. He

refuses to talk in anything but German, going so far even, as to pretend that he cannot understand the language of his own country. He is bright and pleasant while in the society of German musicians, but he is sullen and unappreciative when he is made the object of admiration at the hands of English-speaking people. He plainly holds the musical taste of America and England in contempt, and his chief regret is that he cannot claim the land of Wagner and Lizzt for his own. He makes amends to himself for being born in England by arraying and conducting himself like the noblest German of them all.

All but one seat in a Fifth avenue stage was occupied when a fresh-faced young girl got in and settled sweetly into the vacant space. She found the pocket in her very stylish skirt after an assiduous search of some moments, and then, in the inevitable manner of her sex, produced a 25-cent piece. No woman, let it be said, was ever known to possess the requisite 5-cent piece in an omnibus. They carry marker, in the refuses to talk in anything but Ger

charity into the minds to possess the requisite 5-cent piece in an omnibus. They carry quarters for the sole fashionable women, purpose of permitting young gentlemen to get change for them. This particular maiden chanced to be sitting opposite an exquisite youth who cuts aprilliant figure in the selectest circles of levity: yet one cannot visit any of the nuwere used in the selectest circles of the selectest they are in great vari- up to the driver, and, after waiting the usual ty, from the extenich congregation to the
by juvenile philanfinding something
When the modish
elf into a worker
hard to be captivating,
s succeeds. This wintime, received the envelope in return. As
is the custom in these cases, he tore open the
envelope and handed the change to the rightful owner. But then, instead of placing the
nickel in the fare box, he quietly put it in
his own pocket, and resumed his seat.
Of course no one said a word, not even
the fair maid herself. But every one in the
stage detected the action, and wondered at
such a good looking young centleman being

stage detected the action, and wondered at such a good looking young gentleman being guilty of such an insignificant theft. Presently the driver discovered that a fare was missing from the box. He immediately began ringing his bell at a terrific rate, and the occupants of the stage smiled in embarrassment at one another. The pretty girl looked out of the window and stole pained and horrified glances at the criminal, who sat opposite. sat opposite.

MAKING RESTITUTION. Suddenly he realized what he had done. Drops of cold perspiration started from his brow and he grew pale from mortification. Every soul in the stage, including that in-nocent-eyed girl, believed he was nothing

nocent-eyed girl, believed he was nothing less than an elegant burglar. One sharp-featured woman remarked to her equally sharp-featured friend in a whisper loud enough for everybody to hear.

"He's a thiet, Maria."

The young man looked quickly up at the speaker. Then, drawing a \$2-bill from a large roll that he took from his waistcoat pocket he passed it up to the driver. An envelope came back. Opening it he melected a 5 cent piece from the handful of lected a 5 cent piece from the handful of coin and dropped it into the box. Then turning to the sharp-faced woman who had called him a thief he said:

"Madam, I think I was absent minded enough a moment ago to put into my pocket the bill you gave me to pay your fare from.

I beg your pardon, and here is your change,
complete, I assure you, though coming a
little late in the day."

With these wordshe let the money fall into the astonished woman's lap and hastily left the stage. He had fully vindicated himself, and the sweet maid who had been the innocent cause of the entire situation watched him out of sight with admiring CLARA BELLE

TELLING STRANGERS' AGES.

Not as Difficult as it Seems After You Know How.

Punxsutawney Spirit.) "Give me a list of the names of the men in any city or town in this country, and without ever having seen or heard of them, I will tell you half their ages," said a prominent citizen yesterday.

"How can you do that?" asked an incredulous bystander.

"Simply by the initials of their names. In the first place you must remember that about half of the male powelation of this

The milk with its cream gone was less acceptable to his palate than the mineral water had been, but he swallowed it under the blandishingly encouraging eyes of the barmaid. Then she gave him three minutes of her grace and piquancy in conversation before inferentially demanding a third coin.

In the list place you must remember that the list place you must remember that the most place you must remember that the most place you must remember that the most place you must remember that the list place you have to do it to know when these Presidents of the United States or candidates for Presidents o ington and Andrew Jackson, for people

have not quit naming their boys after these illustrious men to this day,' "For instance, here is the name of W. H.
Johnson-William Heary Harrison was
elected President in 1836, consequently Mr.
Johnson is about 53 years old. Here is W. Scott Smith-Winfield Scott ran for President in 1852. Smith is therefore about 37 years old. The next name on the list is A. L. North—Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. Mr. North is therefore about 28 years of age. Now take the next— M. F. Smathers, Millard Filmore was a candidate for President in 1856. M. F. Smathers is therefore, in all probability, about 33 years old. And so on. By studying the Christian names of men you can figure out the ages of many of them very

BOXED SENATOR GORMAN'S BARS.

When the Veteran Doorkeeper, Captain Bas

sett, Did the Cuffing.

Washington Post.

"Do you remember Senator Gorman as a page in the Senate," asked a Post reporter of Captain Bassett, who for half a century

of Captain Bassett, who for half a century
has been familiar to visitors at the Capitol,
having had supervision over the pages for
the Senate for nearly that length of time.
"Remember him," answered the captain
with something of a sparkle in his eye.
I've boxed his ears many a time. He was one of the bad boys. I remember that Senator Beck had voung Gorman before him one day giving him a lecture about something. He called me over to him and said, "See here, Bassett, I have just been telling Gorman that if he doesn't behave himself first-class after this, I'll have to get you to box his ears.' When a page young Gor-man was up to all sorts of pranks that the imagination could contrive. He was very energetic and never seemed too tired, how-ever long the session may have been strung

CONSUMPTION

I checked by the prompt use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Even in the later periods of that disease, the cough is wonderfully relieved by this medicine.

"I have used Ayer's Cherry Pectoral with the best effect in my practice. This wonderful preparation once sared my life. I had a constant cough, night sweats, was greatly reduced in flesh, and given up by my physician. One bottle and a half of the Pectoral cured me."—A. J. Eldson, M. D., Middleton, Teppessee.

"Several years ago I was severely ill.
The doctors said I was in consumption, and that they could do nothing for me, but advised me, as a last resort, to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. After taking this medicine two or three months I was cured, and my health remains good to the present day."—James Birchard, Darien, Conn.

"Several years ago, on a passage home from California, by water, I contracted so severe a cold that for some days I was confined to my state-room, and a physician on board considered my life in danger. Happening to have a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, I used it freely, and my lungs were soon restored to a healthy condition. Since then I have invariably recommended this preparation."—J. B. Chandler, Junction, Va

Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Sold by all Druggists. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5